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THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE
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OTTAWA, LONDON, and SCOTTISH LETTERS
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS

OFFICIAL ORGAN,
FIFTH SUNDAY
MEETING ASSOCIATION
OF CANADA

MONTREAL, August 21st, 1920

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Our OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent)

THE country has during the past week been treated to an oratorical duel between the Premier and Mr. Mackenzie King, but it cannot be claimed that the two gladiators have excited any profound interest among the mass of their countrymen. The speeches of each may be described as full of politics and empty of statesmanship. What is to be said for national leaders who have an opportunity of addressing large audiences of the electorate and yet omit to say a single word about the most important question of the hour, the international situation in Europe?

Mr. Meighen, it is true, indulged in a few cursory denunciations of the Bolsheviks and launched some of his usual epigrams at their expense, but he did not enlighten his audience of the fact that Europe is faced with a crisis almost as grave as in August, 1914, and if it comes to a head this country would inevitably be drawn into it. Yesterday, the 14th, comes the exceedingly grave news that the British Labor party has with unanimous accord taken the gravest step in its whole history and frankly defied the Government to make war on Soviet Russia. If British troops are sent

to Poland, the workers of Great Britain will declare a general strike and defy the authority of the state.

The course will be denounced as revolutionary by Messrs. George, Churchill and Co., and so in a measure it will be. The Labor party has taken the very extreme step of getting up a committee of public safety to handle the crisis, and it is frankly realized that it may have to resort to unconstitutional methods. Now it is clear that Mr. Lloyd George is against active intervention in Eastern Europe, but Mr. Churchill and others of his Cabinet, as well as the War Office clique, are hot for another war, if only to distract public attention from the state of Ireland and economic problems at home.

There would never be a madder or less justifiable enterprise. Mr. George in his speech in the Commons last week admitted that the Polish attack on Russia had no justification, and was made in defiance of the wishes of the Allies. Since the Poles found themselves restored to the dignity of nationhood their megalomania has known no bounds and they have been infected with an Imperialism of the worst kind. The region known as the Ukraine had for the mass of its population Ruthenian peasants, but the land was mostly held in large estates by a Polish nobility. When the Russian revolution came the peasants seized their farms and the Polish nobility, which was incompetent, reactionary and corrupt, was driven out.

Most of its members took refuge in Poland proper and poured their tale of woe into the sympathetic ears of the gang of Polish aristocrats, who, under Messieurs Paderewski and Dmowski, had secured control of the Polish Government. These gentlemen had quite enough to do to settle their internal problems without embarking on foreign adventures; half the land was out of cultivation, many mills were derelict, the finances were in a parlous condition, and a typhus epidemic was raging. But instead of tackling these local ills, they opened war on Soviet Russia, without any provocation. They posed as the champion of Western civilization against Bolshevik barbarism, but the real object of the attack was to restore the Polish nobility to their estates in the Ukraine and aggrandize the Polish state territorially. It was a case of wanton aggression for territory and idealism played no part.

The Poles were backed up strongly by the French who wanted to establish a strong power on Germany's eastern frontier; French officers were lent in large numbers to the Polish army and money was freely given. Britain and the U. S.

contented themselves with sending supplies.

At the start of the campaign its failure was foretold. At first, however, all seemed to go so well, and the Polish armies advanced well into Russia and captured Kiev. But the Soviet Government gathered its forces and bided its time. When it was ready it counter-attacked the Poles and defeated them. The Polish armies had to retreat and the retreat soon degenerated into a rout. Once more the Poles have demonstrated their incapacity for concerted effort; they were steadily driven back by the victorious Russians and now the fall of Warsaw is imminent.

When the Poles first got into trouble Great Britain tried to mediate, but the Soviet chiefs bade her mind her own business and said they would only negotiate direct with Poland. An armistice was talked of, but the Bolsheviks demanded very drastic conditions which would guarantee them against any future attack by Poland. The Poles are now thoroughly demoralized and are shrieking to Britain and France for help.

France, still obsessed with the idea of a strong Poland as an ally against Germany, is eager to wage war against the Soviet Government and has just taken the most injudicious step of recognizing the Government which the Czarist General Baron Wrangle has set up in the corner of Southern Russia which he holds. It is evident that the French are pressing the British Government to begin an active campaign to drive the Russians out of Poland,

and that the Cabinet in London has been considering some plan of action which would be tantamount to war. Otherwise the Labor party would never have taken such a drastic course as it has done.

Now, the most vital question in Canada today is where does our Cabinet stand on this gravest of issues?

If the Lloyd-George Government declares war upon Soviet Russia, there will be well-nigh a revolution in Britain. If our Government is asked by the Imperial authorities to assist with men and money in this double enterprise of waging a war on the Vistula and crushing democratic protests which may take vio-

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lent forms at home, what response is it going to make?

Is Mr. Meighen prepared to sanction the waste of Canadian blood and money for the purpose of restoring some useless Polish nobles to their estates or is he not? If he is not, then he should say so in public and apprise the British Government of his views.

And Mr. Mackenzie King, the paladin of Liberalism, what has he to say on this issue? Will he treat it in the same spirit as he did the ship-building grab and the Murdock charges and pass it over in lordly silence, or will he protest boldly against any proposal to send Canadian troops to rescue a gang of corrupt aristocrats from the fruits of their own follies? If he does his duty as leader of the Opposition we should hear from his lips a ringing protest against any participation by Canada in a military adventure in Eastern Europe which has the worst of justifications. If we are involved in such a war, the consequences will be infinitely more serious than is at present imagined, and there will be no prospect of a united national effort. In the last three years we have been repeatedly told by authoritative statesmen that we are a nation, but our leaders do not behave as if we were. The first, last and most vital of a nation's affairs is foreign policy and our rulers give it the scantiest of attention.

There is little to comment upon the speeches of the Premier or Mr.

King. Belleville was specially chosen for the political debut of the former, because it is the centre of the staunchest Tory stronghold in Canada. It was predicted that at least 10,000 of the faithful would foregather to greet their new chieftain, but competent authorities put his audience at not more than 4000. He spoke with a certain vigor of phraseology, and it perhaps should be remembered that his chief aim at present is to rally the weary and scattered cohorts of the Tory party together. He adopted the pose of champion of the established order against extremist agitators.

This division of the country into two distinct camps of safe and sane men on the one side and revolutionaries on the other is a dangerous game, and may recoil upon its exponents. There are Bolsheviks at both ends of our social scale, and the millionaires who claim to disregard the common weal and put their own interest above the law are greater enemies of the community than proletarian agitators.

Two days later deep answered deep across the province of Ontario and Mr. King at Paisley made haste to reply to Mr. Meighen and charge him with adopting a lofty and arrogant attitude towards the people. The people have already formed their opinion of Mr. Meighen and do not need the direction of Mr. King. What they are more concerned with is Mr. King's attitude upon certain pressing problems like the cost of living and the railway rate question and what solution for them he has to offer. Has he anything more to say about the Murdock charges?

Some weeks ago he issued a clarification call to his followers to fight all the vacant seats, but the response is not encouraging. Mr. Wigmore claims that he has been promised the support of numerous prominent Liberals in St. John who see more profit in better dock facilities and dredging contracts than in the triumph of any political principles which they may possess. The Hon. Mr. Pugsley has declined to re-enter the political fray, and it looks as if the Minister of Customs may get an acclamation. Mr. Wigmore has not so far indulged in much oratory. Like not a few of the Meighen Cabinet he inclines to the strong, still man pose which helps many politicians to hide the fact that they are too ill-equipped to be anything but still and silent in the company of intelligent men.

Mr. McCurdy, however, is assured of opposition, for the Farmers' Party in Colchester has nominated a candidate in Capt. Hugh A. Dickson of Onslow. The defeat of Mr. McCurdy would be a mortal blow to the Government.

With the conclusion of the junketings and oratory surrounding the Imperial Press Conference, interest at Ottawa has been diverted to the humdrum business of a most important freight rate inquiry. The

railways are operating conjointly as the Canadian Railway Association. The railways are represented by a formidable array of counsel and opposition forces are also present in abundance. The various organizations who object to the increase persist in sending lawyers to state their case; they would fare better if they sent good economists who would explain just exactly what the effect of granting of the increases now sought will be. The railways can put up a doleful story and paint a harrowing picture of financial ruin unless higher rates are accorded them. They lay part of the blame at the door of the wage increases lately granted and letters have appeared in numerous papers attacking railwaymen as profiteers. Their critics, however, forget or do not know that the average railroad man is amongst the lower-paid classes of labor. The increase in the wage bill is only partially responsible for the new demands. The increase now sought will, it is calculated, place upon the country an additional annual burden of \$126,000,000 which is more than the annual interest charge of the war debt. Freight rate increases, as Mr. Hugh Blain, a leading Toronto

wholesale grocer pointed out, are cumulative. Robert W. Woolley, of the American Interstate Commerce Commission, has stated that for every dollar added to freight earnings the consumer will pay from 3 to 5 dollars in added costs. If the demands are allowed and the consumer only pays what the railroad gets there will be an increase of \$75 in the cost of living to every family of 5 in the country, and if Mr. Woolley's estimate is correct the final cost may be three or four times that sum.

This would eat up the wage increase for railway workers and have to be followed by another demand for more pay. The effect of rate increases on production must be considered and the representatives of various industries, agricultural and otherwise, claimed that they would be disastrously affected. In the U. S. there is already visible a slackening of freight due to high costs. The Railway Commission and the Government have a very heavy responsibility in dealing with this question and if they fail to protect the rights of the public, they will face a serious outcry.

J. A. Stevenson.

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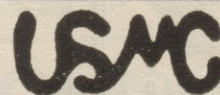
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Onward!

Editor, Canadian Railroader.

Let me compliment you on the Railroader. It jarred me a few times when it was first brought to my notice, and still gives me an occasional jolt. I have long since come to the place, however, where I no longer look on its jars and jolts with mere contempt or irritation, but realize that I am getting some education and enlightenment that I used to think it was not possible to get, or, if possible to get, was of little consequence. When I get one of your jars or jolts now I start in on a little self-examination, and it does me real good. Even when, now and then, I don't quite agree with you, at least I have to admit that you always put a good deal of reason and punch under your arguments, not to speak of courage and sincerity. I like you even when you least love me.

It is always refreshing to pick up the Railroader, and it goes the round of my family and then passes on to outside connections. I get views of things that I never thought of or had put before me.

There is a vision about it which says much for labor men and it is a very hopeful augury for the future, not only of labor, but of all of us. I began by being contemptuous about you, when I was not indignant. I admit that I have changed my mind. The best proof is on your subscription books, where you will find that I have presented a number of my employees with annual subscriptions.

Yours very truly,

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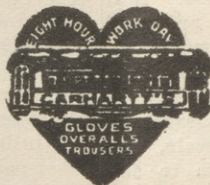
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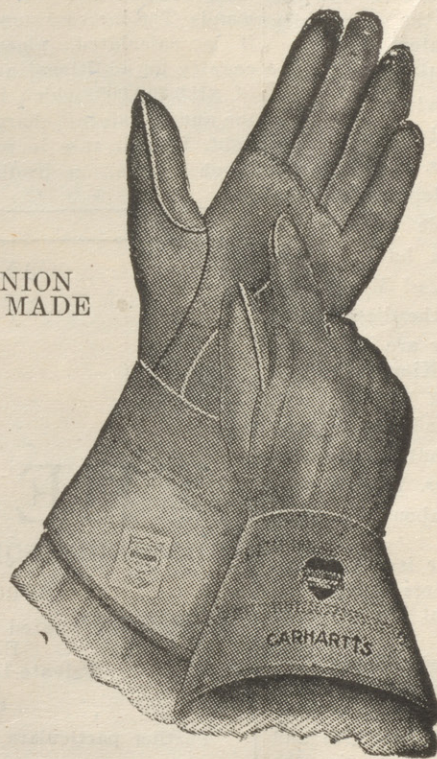
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Canadian School Standardization

Chief Opposition To Ideal Is Expected from Quebec Province.

Standardization of education in the different provinces of Dominion and interprovincial interchange of teachers certificates, are near to becoming live issues in educational circles, according to the Toronto Star, which interviewed Frank Moore, past president of the Ontario Educational Association, on this question.

The chief obstacle, according to Mr. Moore, is the province of Quebec. "The Roman Catholic Church in Quebec," said he, "will fight nationalization of text books, because it would be a move that might take education from its control. For some time the Minister of Education in Quebec has recognized the inefficiency of the system there, but until some scheme is adopted in other provinces, Quebec will certainly never consent to have her educational system conform to that of the rest of the Dominion."

A council of fifty leading educationists, appointed at a conference in Winnipeg, are now considering plans which embrace the substitution for the present system of provincial control by a co-operative council, of which the provincial Ministers of Education would be members. Such a change, Mr. Moore pointed out, would result in the standardization of text books and teachers' certificates.

Teachers holding Ontario certificates are allowed to take charge of schools in Saskatchewan, but teachers with Saskatchewan certificates are not eligible to teach in Ontario. "Yet the Saskatchewan certificate is considered by many to be superior to the Ontario one," Mr. Moore said. "The unequal standards are possible, of course, because of the greater scarcity of teachers who are trained in the west."

Mistress: "Mary, don't let me catch you kissing the grocer's boy again."

Mary: "Lor', mum, I don't mean to, but you do bob around so."

Slaves..

They are slaves who will not choose Hatred, scoffing, and abuse Rather than in silence shrink From the truth they needs must

[think;

They are slaves who dare not be In the right with two or three.

—Lowell.

Mr. Gaydogge—"Well, by-by, my dear. In case I am really prevented from coming home to dinner, I will sent you a telegram."

Mrs. Gaydogge—"Oh, that's quite unnecessary: I've already taken it out of your pocket."

A Political Holiday

(By GEORGE PIERCE).

JUST about a year ago we predicted that the stage was being set for a typical tariff battle. Recent events in the political arena have more than justified our views. It looks like a first-class, three-cornered pow-wow with all the frills and trimmings, red fire and mud-slinging, the heat and the passion of the usual tariff fracas. Mr. Mackenzie King, in alluding to the new party, says that "they have had heralded from the Atlantic to the Pacific an all-embracing name of a new political party with a new political platform. Now, only one of two things is possible. Either we have in office a new party which has made no appeal and has received no approval on the part of the Canadian people; or we have continuing in office a Government so completely discredited that it is itself ashamed of its own name and seeks to perpetuate itself in office under countless disguises, aliases and subterfuges. Whichever alternate we take, there is no nothing to justify the usurpation of the rights of the people in Canada in the matter of government by the Meighen administration."

The new Prime Minister of Canada and the new head of this party, which is generally designated as the National Party, describes the programme of the Liberals as a humbug policy. The tariff policy of the new National Party is described by the Premier in the following language: "The Tariff policy of the Government is to keep Canadian workmen in Canada. The policy of the Government is to enlarge the employment market and add to the size of Canada. The policy of the Government is to make goods here and keep people here with plenty of work for every class of men. The policy of the Government is to give Canadian industries of every kind just enough advantages in the Canadian market as to make it pay them better to stay here and expand than to diminish their plants or leave."

The tariff speech of the Liberal leader is not quite so clear. He says: "It is not a question of free trade or protection with a revenue which will be required for years to come to meet the large interest payments on the public debt, the obligations to our returned soldiers in the way of pensions, and in other respects, as well as to carry on the work of Government in Canada. Resort as we may to direct taxation of incomes and business profits, which is also part of the Liberal policy; tax as we will all luxuries, which is another plank in the Liberal platform, there will still be required for purposes of revenue large sums which of necessity will have to be raised by indirect taxation through a customs tariff. In revising the tariff to this end, care will be taken of the position and needs of all the industries in our country; but such tariff as may be necessary in this connection will be, under Liberal policy, a tariff for consumers and producers, and not a tariff to further the interests of combines, monopolies, or any special or privileged classes."

"Let me point out that such a tariff is not only in the interests of the people of the rural parts, but also in the interests of city dwellers; such a tariff is not only in the interests of the workingmen, but in the interests of employers; moreover, such a tariff is doubly necessary in the absence of any protection to consumers by the abolition of the Combines-Investigation Act, and the demoralization of the Board of Commerce, the function of which was to be primarily that of protecting the consumers against the evils of profiteering."

According to the Hon. Mackenzie King, the Liberal policy is not one of free trade or protection, or a tariff for revenue only. It appears to be a sort of combination of the three tariff principles. There are to be reductions on food, clothing and shelter and upon agricultural implements. To make up for the vast deficit there is to be customs tariff which the manufacturers are told not to fear because great care will be taken of the special needs of all industries in the country.

The Montreal Gazette in discussing it says: "It is to be, he tells the public, a tariff for consumers and producers, a tariff that will permit the manufacturer to sell his products freely at a fair profit, and at the same time permit the consumers and the farmers to buy cheap dumped goods of the United States."

If there is considerable mystery and speculation attached to the tariff policy of the Liberals, the farmers at least are strikingly frank and open as regards the tariff. Fiscal protection is to be removed entirely. Public revenue is to be derived from taxation. Customs duties are to be removed. It is proposed to remove all duties from British goods within five years. Farm implements are to be taxed free. Free trade is the ultimate farmer policy. Thus they are diametrically opposed to the principles displayed by the National Party. Well, the Liberal party contains a little of the pepper of the one and the salt of the other.

What a splendid political mess this is! A three-cornered bitter, partisan struggle, full of passion and political excitement and upon this depends the welfare of hundreds of thousands of workingmen! It is a grim jest. If an advisory scientific tariff board had been instituted by this Government all this excitement, with the consequent stagnation in business; all this uproar with its consequent confusion and inefficiency; would have been avoided. Scientific trained minds would calmly set about gathering data, compiling facts, interpreting their commercial significance and finally recommend a tariff to our Government based upon research and knowledge, upon science and upon a world outlook; instead of which the workers are confronted with a vast political rumpus which will merely empty out the larder and bring the wolf to the door, for all of which we do not thank the members of the cabinet who have turned a deaf ear to three hundred thousand odd workingmen who demanded better than this.

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Twenty Minutes Late

(By Kennedy Crone).

On Tuesday afternoon of this week, the 5.15 local, Grand Trunk, with her load of perhaps five hundred suburbanites and lake shore summerers going home to supper, left the city sharp on time as usual, but soon ran twenty minutes late, an extraordinary thing. The daily race with the C.P.R. to St. Anne's was off, and the whole orderly routine of the 5.15 was jumbled up, compelling the passengers to take note at last, if they had not noted it before, of what an orderly, smooth-running, punctual thing she was.

One little girl at play was responsible for the whole remarkable business.

The 5.15 was pulling along at a good clip just beyond the city boundary, where the green of tress and fields begins to break up the expanse of industrial structures and congested dwellings, and the passengers begin to breathe a fresher air. The engine bell was clanging as the train had only a minute before started from Rockfield and would soon draw up at Dominion, as usual. A heavy freight was rumbling past on the other track and a mist of dust rose through the warm sunshine.

Suddenly there was a whistle shriek and down clamped the brakes on the 5.15. With a jerking and jarring of cars and a great grinding of wheels the heavy train stopped dead in less than her own length. Five hundred passengers dropped the usual evening paper, the usual gossip or the usual meditation, and five hundred wondering heads commenced to bob through car windows and at the edge of platforms. Something unusual had happened to the 5.15!

On the other track the freight had stopped, too. The passenger train backed until the tails of the two were within fifty yards of one another.

The men of the freight crew were already on the track, hard-handed men in soiled overalls, men used to a lot of roughness of many sorts and generally loud of voice. Silently, gently as the gentlest of women, their faces pale under tan and drawn in anxiety, they were

lifting to the caboose the little girl who had stopped the 5.15.

She had been playing with her brother on the track, this chit of four with golden hair and dreadful stains, and whose name was Lillian Smith. She saw the freight and got out of its way only to step in front of the 5.15. Her brother had cleared both tracks. He now stood speechless on the embankment, not understanding.

A trainman's voice from the caboose broke the strange silence: "For Christ's sake, a doctor! See if there's one on the 5.15. A doctor! She lives! Quick, quick!"

The doctor came running along the track, no one quite knew from where, and disappeared into the caboose.

News was flashed along the bobbing heads of the 5.15 in scraps. "A girl". "Dead". "Alive". "Unconscious". "Just a mite; four or five". "Golden hair". "A bad mess". "Stay on the train; you can't help; give them a chance". "Quiet there! There's death among us!"

The engineer of the 5.15 leaned silently of the cab and strained his eyes to the freight caboose. Duty obliged him to remain on his engine. His fists were clenched and his face drawn in agony. He looked as if he might have little girls of his own.

"All aboard", said the conductor of the 5.15, quietly, a few minutes later; "all aboard". The freight began to move first, backing slowly up to Dominion station. As the caboose came past the 5.15 one of the freight trainmen was waving his signals with a hand still reddened in a terrible way. The eyes of the bobbing heads asked: "Any hope?" The trainman wagged his head in "No". Then the eyes asked—"Dead?" The trainman nodded "Yes". He was not able to speak about it.

As the 5.15 swang into her stride again through peaceful pastoral country with the broad lake shining nearby, the indifferent passenger amongst the five hundred picked up his evening paper again and pulled out his watch. "Good heavens", said he; "twenty minutes late!"

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The Spirit of Freedom Needed

"The machine gun will never save the world. If we could recover the sense of proportion, we would be on the way to economic and social salvation." So says an editorial in a wellknown Conservative paper in Montreal, which talks of the world being "out of plumb". The emphasis is rather laid on the economic side of things, but the same charge applies to the social, the political and the administrative order. Before the war it is hardly conceivable that the British Government would have gone out of its way to pick an individual passenger off a ship in mid-ocean. In those days the only man who was arrested or interfered with, was the anarchist carrying explosive bombs. But England is not the only country that has lost its plumb and its sense of proportion. That land of "liberty" to the south of us is out after 170,000 odd young men, the pick of the land in physique—since they were subject to the draft—because their imagination was not strong enough to respond to the military call to interfere with The European maelstrom. So with a splendid spirit of barbarous retaliation, the War Office at Washington has decided to pursue every one of these young healthy citizens, cast them into jail and produce a great group of malcontents, bolsheviks and jail-birds. One may safely venture that ninety-nine per cent of these young men would have readily taken up arms if they had seen their home country invaded, and that is all that real patriotism stands for. The fact is, the spirit of the war is still with us, or rather the spirit of German militarism which we sought, or claimed to seek, to kill. Put away the weapons of the great war, the censorship, the spying system, the too ready interception of individual movements. Let Canada show the way by releasing the men who were sent to the penitentiary under the panic legislation born under the cloud of war. Let us have done with war or declare the armistice a farce. Better the status quo ante bellum with all its possibilities of war, but its spirit of freedom, than this League of Nations business and the maintenance of the war spirit. Let Great Britain and the United States release their war prisoners. Let the spirit of real liberty and real peace and genuine brotherhood prevail, otherwise the whole civilized world will again be plunged into bloodshed and strife.

Caedmon.

The North

(By James A. Mackereth).

Why should I come to London Town
And leave my woods, my moorlands
[brown,

These Border hills of old renown
That lure the curlew's cries,
To share the loveless prison yoke
With dizzy-hearted hounded folk
Whose separate souls, bedimmed
[with smoke,
Have never felt the skies?

Why should I hie to London Town
Who have within my heart my
[crown,
And leave my lovers green and
[brown,

And my blue mother sky,
My daily friends the eager flowers,
Blithe birds and buds, and sportive
[showers,
Trailing by silvered cairns and
[towers,
To see half-dead men die?—

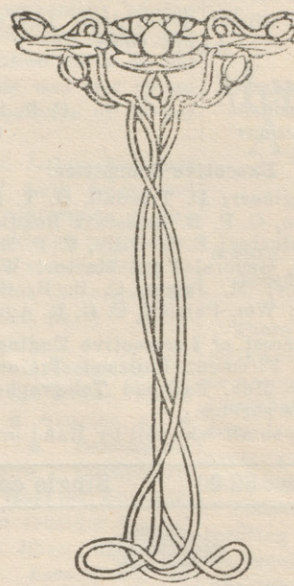
These give blind vows to speeding
[days,
Meek slaves to momentary ways,
Their task the fickle hour betrays,
Their every goal a grave;
While here at every deed I do
The infinite is peeping through,
And earth is drenched with heaven-
[ly blue
Like foam-bell on a wave.

I dig among my garden trees,
Or roam with bracken round my
[knees,
And hear the wind at crooning ease
Among the pine-tree tops;
While stars keep tryst with tarn
[and burn,
I see swift darkness skim the fern,
And fields their flying faces turn,
And many a moon-winged copse.
Oh! not for me the prisoning street,
Vague roar, and vainly hastening
[feet;
But kindly words where winds are
[sweet
On foot-tracks through the corn;
The peace that no void tumult mars,
The grandeur without human scars,
The sleep beneath the neighbor stars
Unfevered, unforlorn.

Be mine the haunts of living men
That keep their hearts within their
[ken,
That up the heath and down the glen
Where day's first dawn-gleam ran,
Pursue their homely tasks and hear
The love-thrilled throistle singing
[clear,
Far from the noise, the spite, the
[fear
Of men that know not Man.

Geographical Matrimony. — Conductor (to passenger of Pullman)—
Passenger—"I don't know. It
wife?"
"Excuse me, sir. Is this lady your
depends upon what State we are
passing through."—"Life."

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WEEKLY

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Association of Canada

Organized Sept. 1916

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April, 1919.

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GEO. PIERCE, Editor.

KENNEDY CRONE, Associate Editor.

Capital And Labor

WHEN you speak of "Capital" and "Labor", and the "Public", or the "Consumer" or the "Community", remember that the "Public", or the "Consumer" or the "Community", is not some great third party distinct from minor factions labelled "Capital" and "Labor". "Capital" and "Labor" are themselves the "Public", the "Consumer", the "Community" in a much more correct and important sense than any bodies of persons outside their ranks.

Organized labor and its immediate dependents alone represent more than a fourth of the whole population of Canada, despite the fact this is primarily an agricultural country. Take "Labor" and the farmer out of your reckoning, and there is practically nobody left. It is estimated that trade unionists and their immediate dependents total more than two hundred and fifty thousand in Montreal. If they are not the "Public", the "Consumer" or the "Community", who has better right to these titles?

The tendency to separate "Capital" and "Labor" from the "Public", or the "Consumer" or the "Community", arises either from ignorance or from deliberate attempt to keep the ignorant confirmed in their ignorant beliefs and fancies.

K. C.

Thanked their Arbitrator

MR. J. A. Woodward, President of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association, and representative of the employees of the Montreal Tramways Company on the Board of Conciliation appointed by the Minister of Labor, was the guest of more than 2,500 of the tramwaymen at a meeting which overflowed the Monument National on Thursday evening, Aug. 12.

Mr. Woodward said that he did not pretend to advise the

men as to whether or not they should accept the unanimous award of the Board of Conciliation; that was their own affair; he merely wanted to present the situation as he knew it and give his reasons for his own decisions. At the close of his address a vote of thanks to Mr. Woodward for his work on behalf of the men was carried unanimously in a scene of great enthusiasm, the men rising and cheering, and throwing caps in the air.

The decision to formally accept the award of the Board, with a few minor amendments mutually agreed upon, was made later.

That Pest-Hole

THE pest-hole near St. Lambert is still engaging the attention of the Railroader, and the results of enquiries and interviews relating to the affair will probably be in shape for publication in the next issue.

K. C.

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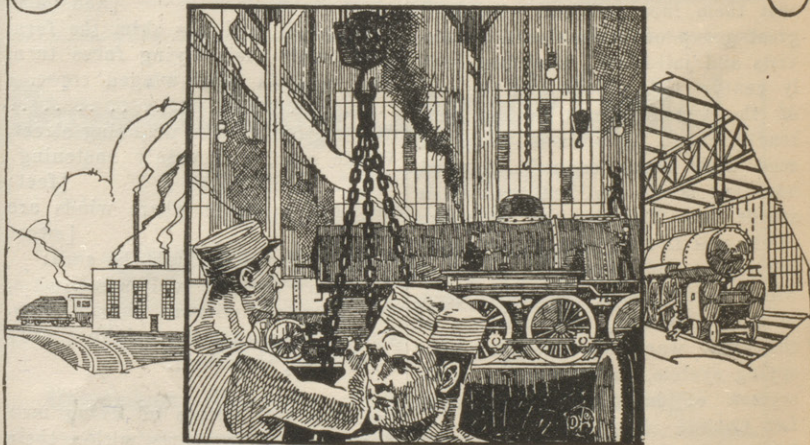
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OUR LONDON LETTER

National Communist Party Held Conference

(From our Own Correspondent)

London, August, 6th.

THE outstanding event of the past few days has been the inauguration at a London conference of what is calling itself the National Communist Party. It is not strong numerically, but as a sign of the times cannot be ignored in any survey of present-day happenings in this country.

Delegates purporting to represent pro-Bolshevist thought throughout the country met to the number of 185, only a handful of whom have any standing in official Labor, and claiming to represent constituents numbering about 5,000. They decided to apply for affiliation to the Labor Party, despite the fact that by its decision to have nothing to do with the Third Internationale, the Party has made it at least doubtful whether it will have anything to do with them.

The most important fact emerging is that when the convention came to vote on the affiliation question, the decision was carried by the close vote of 100 to 85, which leaves the anti-constitutional section of this frankly revolutionary crowd at about 2,225, certainly a small number against the three and a half million members of the Labor Party and the six million trade unionists in Britain.

Such as they are, however, these people are definitely on the side of Leninism. Their main resolution reads as follows:

"Communists in conference assembled declare for the Soviet (or Workers' Council) system as a means whereby the working class shall achieve power and take control of the forces of production; declare for the dictatorship of the proletariat as a necessary means for combating the counter-revolution during the transition period between capitalism and communism; and stand for the adoption of these means as steps towards the establishment of a system of complete communism wherein all means of production shall be communally owned and controlled. This conference therefore establishes itself the Communist Party on the foregoing basis, and agrees to affiliation to the Third Internationale."

Messages of greeting came from Lenin and the German and Austrian Communists, but only Tom Mann, the Engineers' secretary, sent anything to voice the feeling of Labor men in Britain. There was one well-known leader of trade unionism at home, Robert Williams of the Transport Workers, present, but he was there as representing

a branch of the British Socialist Party, and not in any sense speaking for his trade union federation.

From such a gathering there is scant hope or small fear — according to the point of view — of a revolution being inaugurated here for many years to come.

The National Federation of Building Trade Operatives passed an important resolution at their recent quarterly meeting relating to strike policy. The National Executive of the Federation is not empowered to withdraw labor from any job without first receiving the consent of the affiliated societies who may have members involved. This method frequently endangered success in cases where prompt action was necessary, and the Federation has decided to ask its affiliated societies to adopt the following resolution:

"That in all cases where agreements or awards given by Conciliation or Wages Boards for the building industry are violated by an employer, the Federation Executive shall attempt to effect a settlement, failing which they shall instruct all members connected with the Federation who are directly involved to cease work, the secretary of the Federation at the same time notifying all Executives of affiliated unions of the reason for issuing such instructions."

The Guild of Builders (London) Ltd. has submitted a tender for 400 houses to the Walthamstow Urban District Council who have accepted the price of \$1,900,000. As soon as the Ministry of Health sanctions the scheme, therefore, the Guild will begin work. J. Murray, secretary of the London Guild, states that between 12,000 and 14,000 men have become members, including all ranks of the industry, from laborers to draughtsmen and architects. The Guild will concentrate its energies, in the beginning at any rate, on building as many houses for the people as possible, in the best possible manner and at the lowest possible cost.

Some 40 of our principal Labor leaders are in Switzerland at the moment of writing, attending either the Second (Socialist) Internationale or the International Miners' Conference. Soon after their return we are likely to see events moving rapidly in the industrial sense. There is more than a likelihood that the miners' strike may take place next month and that there will be a big struggle in the engineering industry.

Printers in Manchester and Liverpool have received lockout notices, which run a fortnight, because they refuse to accept the settlement re-

cently arrived at by the other sections in the provinces. Already there are no evening papers in these two cities on Saturdays on account of the ban on overtime put on by the men, and one of the Sunday papers is printing in London for the same reason. At present the dispute is limited in scope.

Trouble is possible in the textile trade. A wages agreement having expired, the operatives have put forward an application for a 40 per cent advance. This was met by an offer from the employers of 10 per cent.

The ministry of Labor has met representatives of both sides, and offered to call a conference of the parties, Sir D. Shackleton to preside. The union officials were willing to accept this offer, but the employers objected to a "third party" intervention in the dispute.

The National Association of Unions in the Textile Trade, which represents about a quarter of a million workers in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Scotland and the West of England, met at Bradford to consider the position, and Arthur Shaw, secretary of the National Association of Unions, stated that unless the employers brought forward some amended terms the feeling among the operatives' representatives was that notices should be handed in immediately.

Through a strike of mechanics on the Great Western Railway against an award of the Industrial Court it is expected that serious dislocation of the traffic services will ensue.

About 350 skilled mechanics have ceased work in South Wales, Swindon, Bristol, Birkenhead, Chester, Shrewsbury, Worcester and Wolverhampton.

The strikers are those whose duty it is to attend to running repairs of locomotives. Already a considerable number of engines are help up in the sheds.

The trouble arose in April, when the mechanics asked for \$25 a week. In May they agreed to arbitration on the understanding that the claim should be increased to \$30 a week. This claim came before the Industrial Court in London on June 21st, and the Court held that the demand was not established.

It is against his decision that the men have struck.

Railway wages questions have also been again engaging the attention of the Executive of the National Union of Railwaymen. After considering the minutes of the Wages Board in conjunction with the decision of the annual general meeting, the Executive instructed the general secretary to demand an early meeting with the Minister of Transport, with a view to the application of the National Wages Board award to clerks, supervisors, station masters, controllers, and other grades not already included.

In regard to the decision of the Central Wages Board conceding 50c.

from July 1st, the committee instructs the general secretary to take the matter up with the Ministry of Transport to have the increase paid out immediately. The committee is of opinion that too long a time is allowed to elapse between the agreement being arrived at and the payment by the railway companies.

Ethelbert Pogson.

: o :

Men Vote Against Street Car Strike

Award of Board of Conciliation Accepted By 1,699 Votes To 547.

There is to be no tramways' strike. The employees have decided to accept the award of the Board of Conciliation, with the minor additions as regards shopmen. The contract is until June 30th, 1921, and is retroactive to July 1st, last.

Following the decision of the mass meeting of men at the Monument National on Thursday night, a vote was taken in the various barns last Saturday and the results taken to the union headquarters Saturday night. The vote showed 2,246 voted, of whom 1,699 were in favor of accepting the award and 547 against, and presumably favorable to trying out their strength against the company. The result is looked on as a decisive verdict for industrial peace on the part of one of the biggest unions in Montreal and Canada.

The increase to the men means an additional \$800,000 added to the wage bill of the Montreal Tramways Company. The company will within a short time, possibly this week, make an application to the Montreal Tramways Commission for an increase in fares so that this additional \$800,000 may be met. When the Tramways Commission makes its award there lies an appeal from its findings to the Quebec Public Service Commission, but, as the facts of the case have twice recently been discussed before both commissions and are known, it is not expected that there will be much discussion.

With two months of the year gone, July and August, a rate of four tickets for 25 cents will not be sufficient to make up the balance, it is said, and, instead of there being a surplus towards helping out, the company carried over a deficit from its operation of the system from last year. One result will probably be that the legislature will be appealed to next session to amend the contract between the company and the city of Montreal, which the legislature, through a commission drew up, so that it will not be necessary to pay the city \$500,000 per year as rental for the streets. As a matter of fact, the company is almost three years behind in the payment of this rental, so the actual difference to the city would be nil.

International Labor Organization

(TOM MOORE, President, Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, in *Social Welfare*.)

THE vital issue of the Peace Conference so far as the ordinary workers are concerned is unquestionably the permanent labor organization of the League of Nations which was instituted in accordance with provisions of Part 13 of the Treaty of Versailles, and the Treaty of St. Germain on the motion of the International Labor Legislation Commission of this Conference (of which Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, was Chairman) and in which all the States, who are members of the League of Nations, will eventually participate. This organization has already given proof of its vitality by the decisions reached at its first meeting of the International Labor Conference, held in Washington, D.C., and later at the meetings of its governing council which were held in Paris, January 25th-28th, 1920; London, March 20th-25th, 1920, and Genoa, June 8th-11th, 1920, and the second general conference on Seamen's Conditions held in Genoa commencing June 17th, 1920.

This organization has every ap-

pearance of being destined to have a wide development and to exercise a beneficent and effectual influence on the social movements of the world always on the condition;

1. That it succeeds in maintaining the support and favor of the employers and workers.

2. That it does not develop into a bureaucratic organism confined to investigation, but that it should be before everything a medium of vital action in direct and immediate contact with the social life of the peoples in each of the adherent states.

The permanent organization of labor is divided into six parts of which the last three are complementary to the first three.

The first three are:

(a) The International Labor Conference.

(b) The Governing Body.

(c) The International Labor Office.

The three complementary parts of the organization are:

(a) The Commissions of Enquiry.

(b) The Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

(c) The Permanent Court of International Justice.

1. The International Labor Conference.

The International Labor Conference comprises delegates nominated by the Governments of the adherent states. Each government nominates four, of which two must be chosen in agreement with the most important organization of workers and employers respectively in the country. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is recognized by the Canadian Government as the proper body to name the representative of the workers and their advisers for the Dominion of Canada. The Conference has the right to exclude the class delegates (whether workers or employers) if they have been nominated without the approbation of the most important of the respective organizations, and in the event of the class delegates being excluded, the other class delegate is 'ipso facto' deprived of the right to vote. The same thing occurs if the Government only nominates one class delegate. Thus the Conference consists, half of solely government delegates, a quarter of employers' delegates, and the rest of workers' delegates. All the delegates vote individually and not by state or group.

The Conference must meet at least once a year, normally in the town forming the seat of the League of Nations. Each delegate has the right to be accompanied to meetings by technical advisers,



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ers, of whom the number is limited to two for each item on the agenda. The technical advisers have the right to speak or vote only if the delegate they accompany has given them special authorization in writing. In the course of the Washington meeting (the first session of the Conference) the principle was laid down that technical advisers could be heard before commissions on which their States were not represented.

At the sessions of the Conference only items down on the agenda can be considered.

The Conference considers:

- (a) International draft conventions.
- (b) Recommendations.
- (c) Resolutions.

For the draft Conventions and Recommendations to be adopted they must obtain a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast by the delegates present. Resolutions are adopted on a simple majority.

The governments of the adherent States are bound to submit to the consideration of the competent authorities the draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the Conference. This obligation must be fulfilled within a year, or, in exceptional cases only, within eighteen months of the closing of the Conference under penalty of having the matter referred to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

When a draft-Convention has been approved by the competent authorities the State concerned is bound to carry out its provisions. If it neglects to do so it is liable to be dealt with according to the measures provided by the Peace Treaty.

The adherent States are not bound to carry out a Recommendation, even when it has been approved by the competent authorities. Nevertheless they must inform the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of the decision arrived at by the competent authorities regarding the Recommendations submitted to them.

In the case of a Federal State where the power to legislate in labor matters belongs to each individual State and not to the Federal Government, this State may consider draft Conventions simply as recommendations. The decision of the Canadian Government that the matters dealt with at the Washington Conference are subjects that the Provincial Legislatures only have power to deal with places Canada in this class.

2. The Governing Body.

The Governing Body consists of twenty-four persons, eight of whom are nominated by the adherent States of the Organization which are of the greatest industrial importance and sixteen are elected by the delegates at the Conference. Of these last, four are nominated by the group of government delegates of the States of lesser importance adherent to the Organization, six by the group or employers' delegates and six by the group of workers' delegates. Any dispute arising

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out of the classification of the adherent States according to their relative industrial importance are to be determined by the Council of the League of Nations.

The functions of the governing body are:

1. To exercise control over the administration of the International Labor Office of which it nominates the director.

2. To draw up the agenda and convene the meeting of the annual conference.

4. To consider any complaints put forward by an Association of Employers and Workers as to the non-fulfillment of an international Convention.

5. To consider complaints connected with the non-fulfillment of a convention put forward either by the Government of an adherent State or by a delegate at the Conference. In such a case the Governing Body has the right to ask the Secretary of the League of Nations for the nomination of a Commission of Enquiry.

The expenses of the Governing Body are defrayed by the League of Nations.

3. International Labor Office

The International Labor Office is formed for investigation and for action to collect and distribute information on any subject relating to the International regulations of the

conditions of industrial life and labor. It will publish a periodical report on industrial and labor problems of international interest and "has all such powers and functions as the Conference may assign to it."

The Director is responsible for the working of the office and all functions assigned to him by the Governing Body.

4. Commissions of Inquiry

The Commissions of Inquiry are nominated by request of the Governing Body by the General Secretary of the League of Nations whenever the Government of an adherent State or a delegate at the Conference accuses another State of having failed to carry out a Convention.

Each Commission is composed of three members; an industrial representative and one independent person. The Secretary of the League of Nations nominates the President of the Commission. At the end of the inquiry on the accusation drawn up the Commission presents the Secretary of the League of Nations with its report, in which it proposes, if any, the measures of an economic character it judges fitting for the other adherent States to adopt against the "guilty" state.

5. The Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations is Secretary, Recorder and Registrar of the organization.

6. The Permanent Court of International Justice.

The Permanent Court of International justice of the League of Nations pronounces finally, without allowing appeal, on the claims that may be put forward by States which the Commissions of Inquiry have found "guilty" of non-fulfillment of international Conventions. It also gives a pronouncement of any complaints of an adherent State having neglected to submit the draft Conventions and recommendations which were approved by the Conference to the consideration of the competent authorities.

Chief Features of the Organization

From the study of the functions of the different sections and of the power embodied in the permanent organizations of labor it is clear that its object is the stimulation of fresh labor legislation and the consolidation of that already in existence in the various countries by means of international conventions and recommendations. All countries are kept permanently interested in social progress by the annual meetings of the Conference, the frequent sessions of the Council and the systematic action of the International Labor Office. The organization relies almost exclusively on the employers' associations and trade unions, which not only send their representatives direct to the meetings of the Conference but also have the right to correspond direct with the Governing Body, either to submit sugges-

tions for inclusion in the agenda of the annual meeting of the Conference or should the contingency arise to "accuse" those Governments who have not carried out the conventions they ratified. By the implication in such provision the Peace Treaty has officially recognized the existence of associations and trade unions, calling upon them for direct co-operation in the framing as well as in the carrying out of the laws for the protection of labor.

If trade unions look on this organization with distrust and are over critical and antagonistic this organization will be doomed to go no further than report an investigation. If on the contrary trade unions show confidence in its powers for effectual action and give evidence of their willingness to try to understand its unavoidably complex character (complex because of the varying conditions today in evidence in different parts of the world) and if they co-operate in an endeavor to render it, with such alterations as experience shall devise, better and better qualified to attain the end it has in view, the League of Nations Permanent Organization of Labor will become genuinely the most important international factor for the improvement of social conditions throughout the civilized world.

At the present time about thirty-six nations have become members of the League of Nations and concurrently of the International Labor Organizations. The following table shows the composition of the Governing Body as it was constituted at Washington for a period of three years:

States	Representatives	
	Government	Industrial Labor
Belgium	1	1
France	1	1
England	1	1
Italy	1	1
Japan	1	1
Germany	1	1
Switzerland . . .	1	1
Spain	1	1
Argentina	1	1
Canada	1	1
Poland	1	1
Denmark	1	1
Czecho-Slovakia .	1	1
Holland	1	1
Sweden	1	1

The Labor representative from Canada is P. M. Draper, Secretary.

Treasurer, Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, with Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, acting as alternate.

The work of the first International Conference held at Washington can be summarized as follows:

Draft Conventions limiting the hours of work in industrial undertakings to eight in the day and forty-eight in the week.

Draft Convention concerning unemployment.

Recommendation concerning unemployment.

Recommendation concerning reciprocity of treatment of foreign workers.

Draft Convention concerning the employment of women before and after child-birth.

Draft Convention concerning employment of women during the night.

Recommendation concerning the prevention of anthrax.

Recommendation concerning the protection of women and children against lead poisoning.

Recommendation concerning the establishment of Government Health Services.

Draft Convention fixing the minimum wage for admission of children to industrial employment.

Draft Convention concerning the night work of young persons employed in industry.

Recommendation concerning the application of the Berne Convention of 1906 on the prohibition of white phosphorous in the manufacture of matches.

Details as to these Conventions and Recommendations have been placed before Parliament, and undoubtedly will be issued by the Dominion Government in due course, or may be obtained direct from the International Labor Office, 7 Seamore Place, Curzon St., London, W. I.

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LABOR DAY 1920

(An Editorial in *Social Welfare*, Toronto.)

ANOTHER Labor Day is approaching. The fact that there is a Labor Day—a holiday and demonstration day for Labor—is significant. The nation through Parliament has made it a national institution, thus recognizing the fundamental importance of labor and all laboring people, whether brain or brawn workers.

Idleness (whether enforced or voluntary) is a curse. In labor is blessing, for body, mind and spirit. It is good to rest if the rest has been earned by work. "Six days shalt thou labor... on the seventh thou shalt rest." This is the Divine order. It cannot be violated with impunity. Walking away from a meeting of working people where the Sunday rest had been discussed, a mechanic said to us: "I would not work any if I didn't have to." He was just as bad as the idle rich, who had been cursed by his like in that meeting. There is no problem before the world to-day so fundamentally vital as that of industrial life—the relation between Capital and Labor or rather between employers and employees. It is an open question whether the present social order, with Capital and Labor in opposite and too often hostile camps, with the interest of employers and employees antagonistic each to the other, is consistent with Christian ethics, whether the Kingdom of God in which justice and brotherhood are to prevail and govern all relationships can be built on the foundation of the present industrial order. We say that is an open question. No one will claim it to be an open question whether it is desirable that justice and brotherhood should replace injustice, suspicion, fear and the law of the jungle. "Every-one for himself and the Devil take the hindmost." Employers and employees of the better sort see the desirability, and are

earnestly working at the problem of bringing it about, of securing the peace and blessings of the social order that is to be, as surely as Jesus taught the imperative command, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," and founded the social order of the Kingdom of God.

Change by Evolution

The change when it comes will not be sudden but by the process of evolution. Nothing but our indifference and selfishness can make it revolutionary. "Revolution is reform unduly delayed." If employers, employees and the great consuming public are seriously seeking to remove the injustice, the wrongs and sufferings of the present order there need not be and there will be no revolution, no social cataclysm. If it is otherwise, the fault will be ours! And we shall be held strictly to account and our children will rise up and call us cursed!

It is not easy, nor is it the mark of wisdom, to think we can off-hand blaze the trail of improvement. But some things seem clear enough.

1. We can no longer preach the doctrine of contentment with things as they are as if they were ordained of God.

One of the ancient hymns still in use says:

"The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
God made them high or lowly
And ordered their estate."

Did He? Was is not the rich man who was responsible for Lazarus "remaining" at least at his gate? Was it not God who condemned Dives to Hell because of his unbrotherliness? True, the rich man might excuse himself by saying that what he did and left undone was according to the social order of his day. But God did not accept that excuse.

Do we not often hear priest or

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clergy say at the funeral of a little child who died of preventable disease, "The Lord gave; the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord?" Was it God who "took away?" Was it not the community? In such a case ought it not to be said, "The Lord gave; the community hath taken away; cursed be the name of the community?" Let us have done with charging God with what are our own social sins!

2. All agree upon and all can therefore seriously work for a minimum standard of living. This will include an adequate family revenue—sufficient to give comfortable housing, clothing, food, reasonable time for education, recreation and spiritual culture for a normal family.

3. Such working hours and days as to make rest, education, recreation and spiritual culture possible for the worker and his family.

4. Deliverance from the tormenting fear of poverty and want through unemployment, sickness, accident, old age, etc. This can be done largely through dependent mothers' allowances, and other forms of social insurance, disability or old age pensions, workmen's compensation, health and the like. And the mass of the workers have a right to look to us who are employers or who are free and independent to join the workers in making or securing such provision as will give them deliverance from that tormenting fear. The active opposition

of employers' associations and the gross indifference of the general public when such plans are before legislatures or parliaments constitute a sad comment on human nature, and no wonder if workers become cynical or exasperated. Such a spirit more than anything else breeds revolution and Bolshevism.

5. The fear, suspicion and hostility with which each camp looks upon the other must be banished and give place to love, trust, and co-operation.

Industrial magnates and economic experts tell us and tell us rightly, that the world's distress cannot be relieved, her needs met and the high cost of living reduced until we produce more. They usually put the full responsibility for non-production on the organized employees and their policy of "ca' canny." We do not justify "ca' canny," but we can at least understand the unwillingness of workers to go in for doing all they can until they are assured that the result will not be to add to the millions of certain soulless profiteers instead of relieving the world's distress and really reducing the cost of living. Why did the "ca' canny" British workers produce such quantities of munitions during the war? They saw their fellows falling in numbers before the German guns. Yes, but even this consideration was not enough, not until assured that the Government would limit profits to a reasonable rate. Was that unreasonable?

Suggestions for Immediate Measures

What then can be done to banish distrust and hostility and "ca' canny" methods?

(a) Control profits and prevent what is rightly called profiteering—taking abnormal profits because the necessities of humanity make this possible.

(b) Let employers and employees get together in common councils where all cards will be frankly laid on the table, all suspicions and grievances freely discussed and worthily met, and the work jointly planned, and the largest measure feasible of control given to employees. Every honest experiment known to us along this line has given gratifying results.

(c) The spirit of true Christian brotherhood must be insistently preached to and increasingly practised by both employers and employees.

In spreading this spirit of brotherhood the Church must take the chief place. Is she doing so? Why not make new beginning on Labor Day, Sunday, September 5th?

A city youngster was paying his first visit to his uncle's farm. Among the animals on the place was a rather small colt. As the boy stood gazing at the little creature his uncle said: "Well, what do you think of him, Johnny?"

"Why—why, he's all right," said Johnny, "but where's his rockers?"

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Rent War Declared in Scotland

One Day Strike Threatened By All
Trade Unionists.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Glasgow, August 7th.

CRITICISM of the terms of the new Rents Act in Scotland, it is to be admitted, is both acute and widespread. Naturally this has led the tenants, in receipt of the legal notices from the house factors intimating the increases, to make comparisons. The Act apparently makes definitely clear what the increases are to be. It grants 5 per cent on rent; 25 per cent in respect of repairs; and it obliges the occupiers to pay the differences on the owners' rates between 1914 and 1920. House factors could scarcely make mistakes in adding the first two items, 30 per cent for rent and repairs. There appears, however, to be endless confusion and perplexity in the levying of the item covering owners' rates.

Several instances brought to my notice in Glasgow reveal discrepancies that admit of no explanation I can think of. In one case the increase imposed in respect of owners' rates, is 40 c. per \$5.; in a second it is 85 c. per \$5.00; in a third it is \$1.10 per \$5.00. Independent of any agitation set afoot against the terms of the Act in general, these very considerable discrepancies, in the application of its terms, must inevitably lead to widespread dissatisfaction — if nothing worse.

The Scottish workers will inaugurate their "no rent campaign" on Monday, 23rd August, when they will cease work for twenty-four hours as a protest against the Government's action in permitting

house-owners to increase rents. Nearly 1000 delegates, representing 450 trade unions, trade councils, co-operative societies, and women's guilds, carried a resolution pledging themselves to recommend this course to their respective organisations, at a conference, held under the auspices of the Scottish Labor Housing Association, in Glasgow. This strike, it was explained, was merely to draw attention to the rent strike which the workers intend to carry out, and which was the subject of a second resolution calling upon the workers, as tenants, to refuse to pay the increases proposed in the Rent Restriction Act, and further recommending that tenants pay no rent until the Government withdraws its proposals for increases, unless where owners of houses do not demand increases under the Act. This motion, like the first, was carried by an overwhelming majority against several amendments.

Bailie John Wheatley, President of the Scottish Labor Housing Association, who was in the chair, said that Glasgow Corporation had agreed that 25 per cent was the utmost increase that could be publicly justified. The feeling in favor of a compromise was so strong in the minds of the British people that, had a moderate increase of ten per cent been proposed, it was doubtful if there would have been any trouble. The question was whether the prosperity of the house-owners was to be restored, and the country set free from its difficulties, by a levy on the surplus wealth of the millionaires or by the confiscation of another part of the food of the children of the poor. Property owners by this Act would get \$250,000,000 a year more than they were getting now. There was no sign of the workers being compensated by a voluntary increase of wages and if they had to fight later for another increase of wages to pay their increased rents, why shouldn't they fight now against the increased rents?

Councillor James Walker, chairman of the Scottish Trade Union Congress, in moving the adoption of the first resolution, said he wanted the workers, by their action on August 23, and on subsequent days if necessary, to show the Government that public opinion in Scotland, at least, was against the Act, which had been passed without the sanction of the people.

Mr. J. Sullivan, vice-president of the Housing Association, and Mr. Robert Smillie's successor on the Lanarkshire Miners' Association, in seconding, predicted that coal would be increased in price by \$2.75 per ton when decontrol came into operation.

Councillor Andrew McBride moved the adoption of the second resolution, which was seconded by Mr. J. Gallie, Parliamentary Committee, T.U.C.

A third resolution was also adopted relating to the organisation of

the movement. The three resolutions were then put to the meeting again en bloc, and carried unanimously.

Addressing an open-air demonstration at Greenock, Councillor D. McArthur said the members of the Association which had been formed to fight the landlords were prepared to picket every block and resist any attempt to evict tenants who refused to pay the new demands.

A demonstration organised by the Edinburgh Trades Council, was held in the East Meadows, on Saturday afternoon, at which between 2000 and 3000 persons were present. Resolutions were adopted protesting against the high cost of living and the increase in rents, and calling upon the Government to take the necessary steps to reduce these, or give place to those who would do so.

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held in Musselburgh decided to support the Glasgow conference resolution in favor of a 24 hours' strike, on August 23, as a protest against the increase of rents.

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TRADES UNIONS and EX-SERVICE MEN

(From *Labor World*, official newspaper of organized labor in Montreal)

We have been interested in reading some correspondence on the question of trade unions and ex-service men between Mr. Kennedy Crone and Mr. Bernard Rose in the columns of our contemporary, *The Canadian Railroader*. The ball was set a-rolling by Mr. Rose who contributed a lengthy letter on the subject to the *Montreal Gazette* in which a formidable indictment of certain British trade unions was drawn up on the ground that they were not dealing fairly by the returned soldiers. "K. C." took up the cudgels on behalf of the Unions, and the concluding remarks from both parties appeared in the *Railroader* of July 31st.

Mr. Rose made the general charge that the British trade unions, by refusing membership to ex-service men, were unfairly discriminating against them. There has been a good deal of agitation in this connection in Britain, and the subject has been dealt with fully both in *Labor* and general newspapers published in the Old Country. A very determined effort has been made by the "Interests" to get the trade unions "in wrong" with the

general body of the public through the medium of this question. However, the thing appears to have simmered down pretty well, and although there apparently have been certain cases in which returned men have suffered hardship at the hands of trade unions, on the whole no very strong case has been made against the unions who may be said in general to have treated returned men every bit as well as employers have.

If Mr. Rose knows as much about the history of trade unionism as he claims to know (which is saying a good deal) he ought to be aware that every inch of progress made by the unions has been made along the path of suffering. They have had to wrest every concession from enemies who were often powerful, wealthy, unscrupulous, greedy, and cruel. Gradually, however, the unions have succeeded in forcing these people back and back until at last they have been able to secure for their members a level of wages that ensures the decencies of life and tolerable living conditions. But the point to be noted is that this was only accomplished by force, by strikes, by collective bargaining, by closed ranks, and by standing together.

Yet when the war came and the country was faced with a crisis the trade unions were in the main patriotic enough to waive and lay aside for the time being practically all their dearly-bought privileges in the face of the common danger. Diluted labor on a wholesale scale was agreed to and the employment of women in great numbers sanctioned. This, too, while the most outrageous kind of profiteering was going on under their very eyes. The concessions made by employers were nothing to the concessions made by the men. Government control of British shops resolved itself into nothing harder than the average profit for the past three years plus 10 p.c., a very generous allowance in most cases. Shops that we know of in Glasgow, Scotland, had been paying their shareholders dividends ranging from 20 per cent to 120 per cent regularly for years before the war, so that Government control along the lines indicated meant little or nothing in the way of hardship.

The trade unions stipulated that concessions granted by them must cease with the termination of the hostilities. They naturally felt uneasy at the weakness of their position. They were like soldiers in an enemy country who had broken their ranks and given up their arms under agreement. And what they saw of the conduct of many employers during the war, when the fullest advantage was taken of the country's extremity for purposes of private gain, confirmed them in their belief that their hereditary enemies had suffered no change of heart. So that at the earliest possible moment the unions strove to get on their footing. And then came the problem of the returned soldier.

Now the returned soldier is not a trade union problem in particular. He is a national problem. That he should be a "problem" at all is the most scathing kind of indictment of the methods of Governments and of that beautiful thing known as "private enterprise." "Competition is the life of trade" is the age-old cry, and thus it comes about that men who have risked their lives in order to preserve the country intact are found competing with one another for the limited number of positions that "private enterprise" finds it can afford to throw open while still preserving to itself profits ranging from the handsome to the gigantic. But if you please, Mr. Rose, do not fasten the trouble on to trade unions in particular. Compared with the sins of the employing class in this respect the unions are mild offenders.

Mr. Rose states that had the writer of the editorial in the *Railroader* ("K. C.") given the matter any thought he would not so hastily have jumped into print. We cannot confess to finding any evidence of hasty jumping on the part of "K. C." He seems to take his points carefully and well, and his question as to what would happen if ex-service men tried to get into the

Lawyers' Union without training is certainly very much to the point. We are interested in knowing what would happen. Mr. Rose tells us: "If there were thousands of ex-service men who had undergone a course of training" (that is the regular lawyers' course we presume) "as many ex-service men have, and passed the examination, they would readily be admitted." This is rather naive. In the same spirit we might reply: "If there were thousands of ex-service men who had undergone a course of training" (the regular trade union course) "they would readily be admitted without any examination at all. The unions would be delighted to have them; they are always looking for new members." Nevertheless, Mr. Rose does not see what purpose is served by referring to the Lawyers' Union. "K. C.," he says, "knows very little about it, and has put his foot in it this time." So far as the casual observer can see, "K. C." does not appear to have put his foot anywhere it should not have gone; he certainly does put it rather heavily into Mr. Rose's argument.

Having spoken of the attitude of the Lawyers' Union and what it does and what would do Mr. Rose goes on to tell us that in any case the Bar Association is not a union. The legal quibble, of course, was bound to crop up sooner or later. However for the purpose of "K. C.'s" comparison it is quite in order to regard it as a union, and the fact that Mr. Rose himself deals with it as such is evidence enough.

What the average student of economic questions is puzzled about in cases like Mr. Rose's is to know whether or not such people are really actuated by a desire to serve returned soldiers (which we should like to suppose) or whether they are merely anxious to make a case against trade unions. It is a little difficult to decide, because, if Mr. Rose really has the cause of the returned men at heart, there are so many much better channels for his energy than attacking trade unions.

For instance, he might endeavor to ascertain how many private fortunes were made or augmented during the war and what their possessors have done and are doing for the ex-service man. Or, again, he might calculate how much each individual returned soldier might benefit if war profits were pooled and distributed among them — as they very well might be. We do not seem to recall Mr. Rose as active along such lines. Yet many ex-service men are worked up over the problem. We do not exonerate the trade unions for such mistakes as they may have made. Ethically they may not be entitled to refuse admission to any ex-service man, trained or untrained. But when they look around and see the ethical conduct of their masters in this matter, and of those who would set a lead, and when they remember (and they never forget it) the fierce struggle that enabled them to reach their present position, one cannot altogether blame them.

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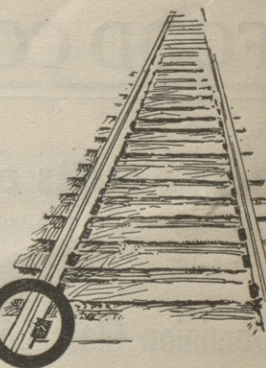
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